PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Friends,

Day for Daniel

Wow! What an outstanding success our Day for Daniel was. This is a most important day as it provided an opportunity for our school community to discuss and consider the ways in which we keep our students, your children safe. As you know BEING SAFE is one of our key expectations at Cambridge Gardens PS and the lessons on Recognise, React, Report were key elements of classroom activities leading up to and throughout the day. A huge thank you to Lara Pedzik who came along to P&C one meeting with the idea and resources and then teamed up with Mrs Patrick to organise and coordinate this important event. A big thank you also to Jo Mortlock who liaised with St Marys RSL who provided red jellybeans for all our students as well as a $1 000 donation to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Thanks also to St Marys Leagues Club for their support.

Thanks to our school community for wearing red especially the parents and friends who attended.

Partners in Learning, Perspectives of Parents at Cambridge Gardens PS

Thanks to our parents that took part in the online survey and evaluation of our school. Your thoughts and perspectives are much appreciated. It is great to have our hard work and ongoing actions affirmed through your responses as well as highlighting areas for the school to continue to develop. We are very pleased to see that parents have stated that our best area of practice is in our support of positive behaviour. It is great that our children are clear about the rules for school behaviour. An area for us to work on is around informing parents of their child’s social and emotional development. This is currently reported on our semester reports and I would be expecting that our teachers are discussing this with you at both our formal and informal meeting. Thanks again to all who responded to the survey. It is expected that the survey will be completed again in 2016 to gauge the school’s success in developing these areas further.

Class Numbers

It seems amazing but the school is in organisation mode for 2016. The staff are busily organising classes and staffing for next year. In order to ensure there are no surprises we ask that if you are moving on to another school that you inform the school in writing once this is confirmed. This helps us ensure that we don’t have to make changes after the commencement of the 2016 school year. Thanks for your help with this.

Our school continues to grow and at the moment we are anticipating a student enrolment of 375 for 2016. This will require the formation of a 15th class and the allocation of a demountable classroom to the school.

Thank you to our P&C and whole school community

At our P&C meeting in Week 4 the P&C were able to hand over $15 000 to the school which was mainly raised through your contributions to our walkathon. Our Stage 2 teachers are most excited as this has allowed the school to purchase a further 30 Ipads and a trolley which will be based in the Stage 2 block. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
I had a very enjoyable evening at the Ningbo Volunteer Dinner last week. This was an opportunity for our Executive Director, Jason Miezes, to present our new volunteer with her scholarship for 2016, Lisa Li, whilst also thanking our 2015 volunteer, Xiaoyan Wang. We are very proud of the program that operates in our school on Tuesdays. In 2015 our focus has been with our students from Y4-6.

Attendance

Just a reminder that all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are required to attend school until Wednesday 16 December which is the last day of teaching for Term 4 2015.

Have a wonderful two weeks!

Adam Wynn
Principal

End of Year Calendar

Principal’s Assembly
   Thursday, 10th Dec – 12.20

Christmas Picnic
   Thursday, 10th Dec – 5.00 p.m.

Talent Quest
   Friday, 11th December

Presentation Assembly
   Monday, 14th December – 9.30 a.m.

Year 6 Farewell/Graduation
   Tuesday, 15th December – 5.30 p.m.

Last day for students
   Wednesday, 16th December

DanceSports

Last Tuesday 27th October, the Dance Sports teams travelled to the Penrith Sports Stadium at Cambridge Park to compete against 25 other schools in the annual finals. Thanks to the Gaels Club for proving the free transport!

What a day! The 24 students were beautifully behaved during the whole day and they all danced their absolute best. Most students made it into the semi-finals, with 6 couples reaching the finals and 2 couples into the grand finals. Ben Roughley and Emily Smith came 3rd overall in the Cha Cha, a fantastic result!

Our students also performed well as a whole team. Both the Junior and Senior teams made it into the final in the Progressive Team competition, and our Junior Team came 3rd overall. All that hard work certainly paid off.

It was a wonderful day and I know Mrs Patrick, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Cheetham and Mrs Cummings had a fabulous time. Well done again!
Sporting Schools Program

This Term, the Sporting Schools Program was introduced into Cambridge Gardens Public School. Already, we have had a wonderful response from our students and parents regarding the program. Sporting Schools is a $100 million Australian Government initiative designed to help schools to increase children’s participation in sport, and to connect children with community sport.

Sporting Schools aims to:
- Support an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Increase children’s participation in sport
- Nurture children’s lifelong love of sport.

I am pleased to announce that the Sporting Schools Program will continue into 2016 and those who didn’t get a chance this time will be first preference in term 1, next year.

Mr Attard  Sporting Schools Coordinator

Talent Quest

The annual CGPS Talent Quest will be held on Friday 11th December, 2015. Entry is now open to all students and will close on Wednesday, 11th November and auditions will begin the following week. Students are encouraged to share their talent with the CGPS community! Please ensure that song choices are free from inappropriate content! Looking forward to a fantastic show!! If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Nelson.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL 2017
Entry to Year 7 in 2017

Applications for selective high schools in 2017 are now open. Apply before 10.00 pm on 16 November 2015. Applications can only be made online through this website. Read the application information and the parents’ overview before you apply.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

In 2015 we ran many events and all of them have been a great success due to the support of the Cambridge Gardens Parents and wider community. At the start of the year we made a commitment to raise funds to go towards the purchase of technology resources for the children. I am pleased to report we have donated $15,000.00 to the School for the purchase of 30 Ipads. I am sure the children will enjoy!!!!

Slice Drive
Our Supa Slice, Bakery Treats and Supa Cookie Fundraiser is well underway and nearing a close. Thank you to the many families who have already returned their order forms and money. For those that have not – could you please complete your fundraising and return your order forms and money by Friday 13th November. The delivery date still remains as the 1st week of December. When all orders have been placed we will be able to advise of a more precise date.

P&C AGM and General Meeting
Our Annual General Meeting is 24th November followed by our general meeting, please considering becoming a
Innovation, Excellence and Connections!

member of the P&C. At the AGM all executive positions are vacated and up for nomination. If you are interested in becoming President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, then please come along. We also welcome any new members, to help support our new executive committee. If you are unable to attend on the above date please let us know if you are interested in becoming a member or holding an executive position. Membership cost is $1, please put in envelope with your name and drop into the office.

School banking
School banking is this Friday 13th November. Please ensure you complete the deposit slip and secure your money in the banking wallet. All bank books are to be taken directly to the office before school. If anyone is available to assist with banking on a Friday morning please meet at the office at 9.10am.

Christmas Picnic BBQ Helpers
The end of the school year is fast approaching. The Christmas Picnic is on the 10th December, so there is still lots of planning to do. If you can spare some time to help cook the bbq or serve please let us know either via facebook, email cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au or the slip below.

Time slots are:

Set up 4pm ______
4.30pm – 5.30pm ______
5.30pm – 6.30pm ______
6.30pm – 7.00pm ______
Clean up. ______

Name_____________________________________
Phone_____________________________________
Email_____________________________________

If you are able to help, but not for the whole hour, please indicate the time you would be available to help out, any time is appreciated 😊
Primary Ethics Classes

Since early 2011, NSW public school children have had a legal right to attend classes in philosophical ethics at their school if:

- their parents give permission for them to go to ethics classes and
- Primary Ethics can provide trained and vetted volunteers to organise and teach the classes.

Classes are available to all children from Kindergarten to Year 6 who don’t attend the available Scripture/SRE (Special Religious Education) classes in their school. However, Primary Ethics can only provide these classes if it has trained volunteers from either the school community or the wider community.

What are ethics classes?

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances. Our curriculum comprises a wide range of age-appropriate topics that primary-aged children find interesting. Students learn to think about these ethical matters together and engage in the give-and-take of reasoned argument. This process allows students to properly consider other people’s points of view and to be sincere, reasonable and respectful in dealing with their differences and disagreements.

Our K-6 curriculum has 78 topics, starting with Questions and Puzzlement, introducing children to the foundation of ethical thinking. Children in the younger primary years examine issues such as being left out, sharing and bullying, while older children reflect on issues such as homelessness, fairness and teasing to help them consider the feelings and interests of others – one important aspect of moral reasoning. Other aspects include understanding consequences, having empathy and appreciating difference.

Research shows that well-reasoned moral judgement does not develop automatically as young people mature and that these skills are best developed using the methods we employ in ethics classes. Once acquired, these skills accompany individuals into adulthood.

Starting ethics classes at your school

If there are no ethics classes currently available at your child’s school, you should:

- let your principal know that you would like ethics classes for your child,
- go to the Primary Ethics website www.primaryethics.com.au to find out more about our curriculum, information for parents and volunteering, and
- email Primary Ethics at info@primaryethics.com.au to let us know the name of your child’s school and the year he/she is in.

We will contact you and/or your principal to get things started at your school.

No classes for your child’s year?

If there are ethics classes at your school but none for your child’s year, please contact your principal and the Primary Ethics Coordinator to let them know you would like ethics classes for your child. We will need to find a volunteer to start a class, so volunteer yourself or ask your friends/family if they are interested. See www.primaryethics.com.au/ethicsteacher.html

Primary Ethics
just think about it.